

Chapter 2

WATER MANAGEMENT GOALS

STATUTORY GUIDANCE

Water management programs and activities are determined by goals set in various state statutes. Long-term state and regional water management planning goals are defined in Chapter 186, F.S. Specific water resource goals are included in the *State Comprehensive Plan*, Chapter 187, F.S. The principal goal for water resource management in Florida is established by the Florida Legislature in Section 187.201(8)(a), F.S.:

Florida shall assure the availability of an adequate supply of water for all competing uses deemed reasonable and beneficial and shall maintain the functions of natural systems and the overall present level of surface and ground water quality. Florida shall improve and restore the quality of waters not presently meeting water quality standards.

In addition to the general guidance provided through the *State Comprehensive Plan*, the Florida Water Resources Act of 1972 (Chapter 373, F.S.) and the State Water Resource Implementation Rule (Chapter 62-40, F.A.C.; Subsection 373.019(20), F.S.) provide guidance to water management districts for the development of water resource goals and plans. Goals for the District's areas of responsibility are described in this document in **Chapter 3** through **Chapter 6**. Regional goals are described in **Chapter 7**.

Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, Policy Guidance

Chapter 373, F.S., which established the water management districts, directs the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and water management districts to take into account the cumulative impacts on water resources and manage those resources in a manner to ensure their sustainability. The Florida Legislature further directed those agencies to apply the following policy guidance:

- Provide for the management of water and related land resources
- Promote the conservation, replenishment, recapture, enhancement, development, and proper use of surface and ground water
- Develop and regulate dams, impoundments, reservoirs and other works, and provide water storage for beneficial purposes
- Promote the availability of sufficient water for all existing and future reasonable-beneficial uses and natural systems
- Prevent damage from floods, soil erosion, and excessive drainage
- Minimize degradation of water resources caused by the discharge of storm water
- Preserve natural resources, fish, and wildlife

- Promote the public policy set forth in Section 403.021, F.S.
- Promote recreational development, protect public lands, and assist in maintaining the navigability of rivers and harbors
- Promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of Florida

Governor's Water Policy

In March 1999, Governor Jeb Bush released the following guiding principles for Florida's water management districts:

- Fiscal accountability - respect for Florida's taxpayers and their hard earned income
- Balance - respect for the multifaceted mission and roles of the water management districts
- Objectivity - independence from interest groups and not singularly reliant on water management staff
- Respect for the rights of property owners

DISTRICT MISSION AND VISION

After a consideration of the enabling and guiding legislation for Florida's water management districts, the SFWMD has adopted the following mission and vision statements.

Mission

The mission of the SFWMD is:

To manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems, and water supply

Vision

The vision of the SFWMD is:

To be the world's premier water resource agency

WATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The DWMP provides long-range direction of District activities in two different ways. The first analysis is by area of responsibility, of which the District has four: (1) water supply; (2) flood protection and floodplain management; (3) water quality; and (4) natural systems. DWMP **Chapter 3** through **Chapter 6** examine the condition of water resources within the District, as well as issues related to each area of responsibility, and include the District's goals, objectives, strategies, and performance measures to improve water resource conditions within each area of responsibility, and quantify changes in those conditions.

The second analysis contained in the DWMP is organized by the District's four regional watersheds (**Chapter 7**): LEC, LWC, UEC, and Kissimmee Basin. These regional watersheds cumulatively cover the entire District. This analysis brings together the water resource related issues and concerns of **Chapter 3** through **Chapter 6** into a geographically integrated format by regional watershed, and includes regional goals, assessments, and issues for each of the planning regions.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies, and Performance Measures

The area of responsibility (**Chapter 3** through **Chapter 6**) and watershed analyses (**Chapter 7**) contain a hierarchy of District goals, objectives, strategies, and performance measures for each of the areas of responsibility and regional watersheds.

Goals

Goals are the high level outcomes that the District is trying to bring about. Goals are typically the District's interpretation of the statutory goals provided through legislation. The legislative background for these goals is provided by area of responsibility in **Chapter 3** through **Chapter 6**. Goals identified in the DWMP by area of responsibility are shown in **Table 6**.

Objectives

Objectives are outcomes that represent what the District is trying to achieve at a more focussed level than the described goals. Through meetings between the Executive Office of the Governor, FDEP, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), and the state's five water management districts, a set of core water management district objectives and performance measures were agreed upon. Core objectives identified in the DWMP by area of responsibility are shown in **Table 7**.

Table 6. Goals for the Areas of Responsibility.

Area of Responsibility	Goals
Water Supply	Assure an adequate supply of water for all existing and projected reasonable beneficial uses
	Increase available water supply
	Promote the use of alternative water supply sources and conservation
	Protect the water quality of source water from degradation and natural systems from significant harm, which would result from water use
Flood Protection and Floodplain Management	Protect from and mitigate for the impacts of flood events
	Protect and restore natural features of floodplains
Water Quality	Protect and improve surface water quality
	Protect and improve ground water quality
Natural Systems	Preserve native ecosystems, along with their water resource related functions
	Restore altered ecosystems, where appropriate, along with their water resource related functions

Table 7. Core Objectives for Each Area of Responsibility.

Area of Responsibility	Core Objectives
Water Supply	WS 1: Increase available water supplies and maximize overall water use efficiency to meet identified existing and future needs
	WS 2: Prevent contamination of water supply sources
Flood Protection and Floodplain Management	FP 1: Minimize damage from flooding
	FP 2: Promote nonstructural approaches to achieve flood protection, and to protect and restore the natural features and functions of the 100-year floodplain
Water Quality	WQ 1: Protect and improve surface water quality
	WQ 2: Protect and improve ground water quality
Natural Systems	NS 1: Maintain the integrity and functions of water resources and related natural systems
	NS 2: Restore degraded water resources and related natural systems to a naturally functioning condition

Strategies

A strategies is the means by which the District reaches an objective. Strategies related to the District's goals and objectives are described by area of responsibility in **Chapter 3** through **Chapter 6** and by regional watershed in **Chapter 7**. In these chapters the District has defined its strategies (programs, projects, and other activities) in order to meet its objectives. The activity tables in **Chapter 3** through **Chapter 6** list the major strategies that will be utilized by the District on an area of responsibility basis. The strategies discussed in **Chapter 7** reflect these major strategies, as well as additional, regionally specific tasks.

Performance Measures

Performance measures are used to track and report the District's accomplishments, both in terms of outputs and outcomes. Outputs are the services delivered by the District. Outcomes are the effects of District actions on water resources.

Core objectives and core performance measures for each of the four areas of responsibility were agreed upon through extensive meetings between the Executive Office of the Governor, FDEP, FDACS, and the state's five water management districts. Water management districts have the option of adding performance measures, and the SFWMD has done so as proposed by the agency's senior level management. Performance measures are to be used by all five of the state's water management districts as of October 1, 1999.

The objectives and their associated performance measures for each of the areas of responsibility are listed below.

Performance Measures Common to all Areas of Responsibility

- **Core CM(a):** Acres in managed conservation areas acquired by the District
- **Core CM(b):** For District-owned lands: 1) number of management plans required; 2) number of management plans completed; and 3) percentage of management plans completed on schedule
- **Core CM(c):** Number and percent of land management plan activities being implemented according to plan schedules
- **Core CM(d):** Acres of land acquired through less-than-fee simple ownership, on an annual and cumulative basis
- **Core CM(e):** Percentage of Environmental Resource Permitting (ERP) permits for which compliance inspections were conducted, and of those inspected, percentage found to be in compliance

Water Supply

Core Objective WS 1: Increase available water supplies and maximize overall water use efficiency to meet identified existing and future needs

Performance Measures for Core Objective WS 1

- **Core WS 1(a):** Percentage of domestic wastewater reuse
- **Core WS 1(b):** Gross per capita water use (public supply) by District and water supply planning region
- **Core WS 1(c):** Within each water supply planning region: 1) the estimated amount of water supply to be made available through the water resource development component of the regional water supply plan; 2) percent of estimated amount under development; and 3) percent of estimated amount of water actually made available
- **Core WS 1(d):** Within each water supply planning region, the estimated additional quantities of water supply made available through District water supply development assistance

Core Objective WS 2: Prevent contamination of water supplies

Performance Measures for Core Objective WS 2

- **Core WS 2(a):** Percentage of surface water supply sources for which water quality fully attains the designated use
- **SFWMD WS 2(b):** Percentage of public water supply wellheads subject to wellhead protection ordinances

Flood Protection and Floodplain Management

Core Objective FP 1: Minimize damage from flooding

Performance Measures for Core Objective FP 1

- **Core FP 1(a):** Percentage of District works maintained on schedule
- **SFWMD FP 1(b):** Number and cost of storm water retrofit projects carried out by the District
- **SFWMD FP 1(c):** Average number of days to complete ERP review and issue a permit once the application is complete
- **SFWMD FP 1(d):** Number of permit applications received
- **SFWMD FP 1(e):** Number of preapplication inspections
- **SFWMD FP 1(f):** Number of permits issued

Core Objective FP 2: Promote nonstructural approaches to achieve flood protection, and to protect and restore the natural features and functions of the 100-year floodplain

Performance Measures for Core Objective FP 2

- **Core FP 2(a):** Number of acres identified for acquisition to minimize damage from flooding and the percentage of those acres acquired

Water Quality

Core Objective WQ 1: Protect and improve surface water quality

Performance Measures for Core Objective WQ 1

- **Core WQ 1(a):** Percentage of water segments that fully meet, partially meet, and do not meet their designated uses
- **Core WQ 1(b):** Number and percentage of Surface Water Improvement Management (SWIM) water bodies with approved SWIM plans for which Pollutant Load Reduction Goals (PRLGs) have been established
- **Core WQ 1(c):** Percentage of total stream miles and lake and estuary area in the District assessed for ambient water quality
- **SFWMD WQ 1(d):** Number of SWIM plans being implemented according to SWIM plan schedules
- **SFWMD WQ 1(e):** Number and percentage of permitted systems inspected through the ERP Program, and percentage of those inspected found in compliance with permit conditions

Core Objective WQ 2: Protect and improve ground water quality

Performance Measures for Core Objective WQ 2

- **Core WQ 2(a):** Improving, degrading, and stable trends in ground water quality
- **Core WQ 2(b):** Improving, degrading, and stable trends in nitrate concentrations in springs

Natural Systems

Core Objective NS 1: Maintain the integrity and functions of water resources and related natural systems

Performance Measures for Core Objective NS 1

- **Core NS 1(a):** Number and percentage of established Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) being maintained consistent with established recovery or prevention strategies
- **Core NS 1(b):** Number of MFLs, by water body type, established annually and cumulatively
- **Core NS 1(c):** Percentage of MFLs established in accordance with the previous year's schedule
- **Core NS 1 (d):** Total acres of wetlands or other surface water authorized by ERP to be impacted and acres required to be created, enhanced, restored, and preserved
- **SFWMD NS 1(e):** Acres of wetlands preserved as a percent of wetland acres reviewed through ERP applications; acres of wetlands reviewed; acres of wetlands impacted; acres of wetlands preserved; and acres of wetlands mitigated (may include wetlands preserved on-site)

Core Objective NS 2: Restore degraded water resources and related natural systems to a naturally functioning condition

Performance Measures for Core Objective NS 2

- **Core NS 2(a):** Acres of invasive nonnative aquatic plants in inventoried public waters
- **Core NS 2(b):** Acres of District managed lands infested with invasive nonnative upland plants by degree of land coverage
- **Core NS 2(c):** Acres of District-owned lands identified in land management plans as needing restoration; acres undergoing restoration; and acres with restoration activities completed
- **SFWMD NS 2(d):** Acres of land infested with invasive nonnative upland plants, by species inventoried
- **SFWMD NS 2(e):** Acres of cattail coverage relative to District 1995 aerial photo maps
- **SFWMD NS 2(f):** Percent increase in wading bird populations as measured by systematic reconnaissance flights